

December 9, 2013

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, December 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the E.J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant, 1303 Washington Street.

Present: John Spillane, James Taylor, Roger Turner, Patrick Fasanello and Ken Fettig.
Also Rick Mattson, Supt. of Sewer and Water.

All abatements submitted tonight are reviewed and signed.

Motion Made by Roger Turner to accept the Executive Session minutes of October 28, 2013. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0.

Motion Made by Ken Fettig to accept the minutes of October 28, 2013. Second by James Taylor. Vote 4-0-1, Fasanello abstains.

Motion Made by Patrick Fasanello in an effort to provide transparency and accuracy that all meetings be tape recorded and kept for 90 days. Second by James Taylor. Mr. Fasanello says the reason for his motion is because our forefathers fought for democracy and noting the State and Federal government's lack of transparency like the gas tax and Obama Care. He feels there is a tendency with the government of being nontransparent and he does not want this for the Town of Walpole. Mr. Taylor says this is a good idea and cannot see a problem with it because all the other Board's do this. Mr. Fettig feels we are transparent enough. Mr. Spillane says it is a matter of trusting the secretary. Mr. Fasanello responds that there is a saying; trust but verify. Mr. Spillane suggests trying it for a couple of months and Mr. Fasanello responds that his motion is the way it is and the Board can vote in favor or not. Mr. Turner does not feel it is necessary and questions whether it is in line with the open meeting law. Mr. Fasanello asks if he checked it and Mr. Turner says no and suggests tabling the motion until the next meeting and Mr. Fasanello says he does not want his motion tabled. Vote on the motion 2-3-0, Spillane, Fettig and Turner against. Mr. Fasanello says he will not sit here with members that will give the Town of Walpole transparency and a guarantee of accuracy of minutes so he is leaving. Mr. Fettig asks if he taking his ball and going home because he did not get his way and Mr. Fasanello responds he is leaving because the minutes of the meeting may be inaccurate. Mr. Taylor says he is leaving also. Mr. Fasanello and Mr. Taylor leave the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S STATUS REPORT

Mr. Mattson reports that the contractor is due December 18th to scour the Morningside Drive water main. It will be a 2 day project. They will have to shut off the services at the curb and remove the meters to prevent blockages. Mr. Fettig asks about people who have hot water systems that will be put out of commission and Mr. Mattson responds that it would be for a short period of time. Mr. Mattson says his plan for Field Drive and Edgewood Avenue is to replace the pipes in the spring and since they are only about 300' it is something that can be done in house. He asks the Board to look at the O&M and Capital Budgets that are included in their package and call if there are any questions. He then reports that the casing at Mine Brook #3 has rotted and once he assembles costs he will look at how the Board would ask for a reserve fund transfer from retained earnings. There is discussion on tuberculation of iron.

Motion Made by Roger Turner to accept the minutes of November 25, 2013. Second by Ken Fetting. Vote 3-0-0.

CONCOM REQUEST FOR COMMENTS LOT A NORTH ST. NOI

Mr. Turner says with regard to forced sewer here, he realizes Mr. Viano is the landowner but he has created a problem for the builder/homeowner. If there is a power outage long term there is no backup which means the houses would be unusable. Mr. Mattson says it has a minimal amount of storage, he believes 300 gallons. Mr. Turner suggest send a letter to the Board of Health. Mr. Mattson says he does not see the difference with this and a home being on a well. There is discussion about a generator plug and Mr. Spillane asks if we can require it. Mr. Mattson says no and tells that our own Walpole Park South and Chandler Ave do not have generators. There is further discussion. Mr. Spillane says it is a minor modification and Mr. Turner says it is easier when building. Mr. Fetting says we should maybe suggest it at least.

Motion Made by John Spillane to concur with the comments of the Town Engineer. Second by Ken Fetting. Vote 3-0-0.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION– WALPOLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

A letter is before the Board asking for consideration for water charges encountered due to a water leak on Ellis Street property owned by the Housing Authority. Mr. Mattson explains that the sewer charges already were abated as it did not enter the sewer system. Additionally, it was our contractor who installed the gasket where the leak occurred. The Authority is also asking that we abate interest charges incurred for the Pemberton Street bill ask they did not receive the bill. Mr. Mattson sees no justification for this. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to abate \$482.39 of water charges which is what the Water Department staff has calculated as being the excessive amount of water that passed through the meter for the Ellis Street account. Additionally, there is to be no consideration for the interest charges on the Pemberton Street account. Second by Roger Turner. Vote 3-0-0.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION – W/S CHARGES 7 LORRAINE RD., CURTIN

Mr. Curtin writes to the Board as he had a leak in his sprinkler system and received a bill triple his normal amount. In his letter he asks the Board to adjust his bill to his normal usage. Mr. Mattson explains there is another large bill that he has not yet received due to this leak and that the water passed through the meter so he had his staff calculate what the excess sewer charges were. The total excess sewer charges for both bills would be \$350.47. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to abate \$350.47 of sewer charges for 7 Lorraine Road, as the excess water usage did not enter the sewer system. All water charges must be paid for. Second by Ken Fetting. Vote 3-0-0.

7:15 APPT. JIM WILLIAMSON, BARBERRY HOMES

This appointment was cancelled and rescheduled for January 13, 2014.

CONCOM REQUEST FOR COMMENTS NORTH ST. ANRAD

It is determined that this is a conservation matter however the Town Engineer's comments are attached. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to concur with the comments of the Town Engineer. Second by Ken Fetting. Vote 3-0-0.

SECRETARY'S EVALUATION

The yearly evaluation of the secretary is reviewed by the Board. The Chairman asks if anyone would like to make any changes or additions and there are none. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to approve and submit the evaluation to the Personnel Board. Second by Ken Fetting. Vote 3-0-0.

SEWER & WATER CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST PROPOSALS

Mr. Mattson asks that the Board review the requests and decide what they would like to keep, change, and/or add. If there are any questions they should contact him and he will be happy to go over things. Mr. Turner asks how the mixing system in the water tank would work and Mr. Mattson explains. There is some discussion on some of the items and Mr. Mattson again asks them to review them with their focus being 2015 and pick and choose what they want to do so he can include them on the town meeting warrant for the spring.

FY 2015 O&M BUDGET REQUESTS

Mr. Mattson asks that the Board review this budget also and get back to him with any questions or concerns.

MWRA REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Fetting says he asked that this be included in the agenda as he has a concern. Mr. Fasanello always gave updates of what occurred at the meetings he attended. He feels if Mr. Fasanello is continuing to walk out of the Sewer & Water Commissioners meetings that perhaps this Board is not being kept informed of the goings on at the MWRA meetings. He would like to suggest that Mr. Fasanello be asked if he has attended any MWRA meetings that the Board has not been updated on and if he is planning to continue being representative for the Town of Walpole.

Motion Made by John Spillane to adjourn. Second by Roger Turner. Vote 3-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.